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FROM: J. D. Coleman
Sports Information
Montana University
Missoula, Montana

Sept. 13, 1957

MISSOULA, Mont., Sept. _____ For the first time in two weeks Montana coach Jerry Williams had a smile at the end of a practice session when Thursday a team of white-jersied Grizzlies ripped through a green-shirted crew with power and abandon.

"We've still got a long way to go", Williams declared. "But at least we're starting to look like a football team."

The white team, composed of players most likely to be in the starting unit when the Silvertips meet Utah Sept. 21 displayed occasional flurries of offensive power and speed during the hour-long scrimmage which both surprised and delighted the coaching staff.

"They looked very good at times, much better than they should considering this was only the third or fourth practice for many of the players.

"This is by far the strongest team Montana has had here for some time, and with a few breaks, we'll surprise a lot of people." Williams said.

Williams said he would continue three-a-day drills in an effort to win back some of the ground he lost when at one time as many as 24 players were sidelined with influenza.

"The flu set us back, physically and mentally, at least a week. The team is starting to get mean again--but they're going to have to get a lot meaner within the next week."

Running on the offensive team were Pete Rhinehart and Terry Hurley, ends; Karl Benjamin and Dick Leenhouts, tackles; Stan Renning and Bill Hand, guards; Charley Moore, who was moved up when Mick O'Brien suffered an injured knee, at

(more)

center; Earl Keeley and Roy Bray at quarterback; Ervin (Tank) Rosera at fullback; Matt Gorsich and Jerry Connors at halfback; and Don Williamson at wingback.

Two position changes were made Thursday by the coaching staff. John Dixon, Spokane, who started his career at Montana two years ago as a tackle and was shifted to guard last fall and to end last spring, has been reassigned to his old position to bolster the tackle position.

A fourth-string fullback, Tom Sorenson, also was shifted to tackle. Sorenson, who combines good speed with a compact, 220-pound frame, had, as a back, been slightly weak defensively. However, no such deficiency was noted when he was shifted into the tackle slot during scrimmage sessions Thursday.

"He looked a lot better at tackle than he did at fullback--so that's where he's going to play," Williams commented.

The position shifts add depth to the one position where the Grizzlies could be considered most vulnerable. With Gary Kennedy, tabbed as a possible starter, Jim Horsley and John Love, all temporarily sidelined with injuries or influenza, the addition of Dixon and Sorenson should aid the Silvertip cause immensely.

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